

## ***Front Street Improvement Project- Update: February 19, 2010***

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*The contractor has completed the 7<sup>th</sup> week of Stage 1 of the project (Market Street intersection to Princess Street), which is scheduled to last 4 months to reach completion thru the 000 block. TA Loving continues to make good progress on the underground utility work, while effectively managing traffic and pedestrian issues in the Market Street intersection. Currently the contractor is providing over 90 hours of crew time each week, as they strive to effectively utilize their resources and sub-contractors. The City is working closely with the contractor to stay on schedule and meet key milestones.*

***This week** the contractor continued storm water, sanitary sewer and water utilities in the south side of the Market Street intersection. They also worked on fire hydrant and fire service installations in the 000 block. The contractor completed temporary paint striping and the installation of stop signs to enforce traffic control for motorists. Door to door visits were made to businesses on S. Front and a new traffic pattern notice was sent out on Wednesday to downtown stakeholders. On Thursday morning the contractor expanded the traffic control over to the southeast quadrant in order to continue utility work within Market Street. During this period, only the westbound lanes of Market Street are open to vehicular traffic to Water Street with no other turning movements on Front Street. This week the City met intensively with TA Loving Company to update the schedule on the remaining work activities within Stage 1.*

***Next week**, the contractor will continue working in the south side of the intersection to complete the utility improvements. Also, there are plans to remove the traffic signals, which will require temporary stop signs. The contractor expects to complete the installation of water main construction soon and begin the process of filling and testing. Following the utility work, much of the above ground work will commence, bringing a new look of progress to the project. The contractor has ordered the granite curbing materials, brick pavers and traffic control equipment in anticipation of starting this work soon.*



*The City continues to work with downtown stakeholders and business owners to address concerns and tangible issues such as parking and traffic enforcement. Also, the City is working with property managers at 26 N. Front who are making improvements and require sidewalk permits for temporary closures. More information about the project can be found on the City's website at [www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov).*